

ABINGTON AVENUE SCHOOL GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

College student sponsors from an undergraduate elective course within the New Jersey School of Architecture spent the past semester challenging students from the NCTIP-sponsored Gifted and Talented Program of Newark's Abington school to an awareness of transportation, architecture, engineering, technology, etc., as fields of study. Mentors served as role models, and participated in field trips and a glider contest, which required design and construction of a vehicle to carry an egg unbroken from the top of NCTIP's Tieman Hall.

The students designed and prepared a video documenting their studies, from the initial glider project through model building, tours of the nearby Port of Newark/Elizabeth and Newark International Airport, and a transportation t-shirt contest. They wrote essays on their experience, which were made into a booklet, and are planning a web site. The video was sent to USDOT, and is available on request to other interested parties.

The initial Gifted and Talented program was established at NJIT in 1994 as part of the Pre-College consortium. Under the guidance of Dr. Sandy Moore of the NJ School of Architecture, students were exposed to a variety of career options. The program has evolved to include a transportation valence, providing opportunities for the children from the transportation-intensive Newark area to become acquainted with the virtual laboratory in which they live.

Students worked in teams designing T-Shirts with transportation themes. Here, Kavita, Miguel and Alyson collaborate on their entry:



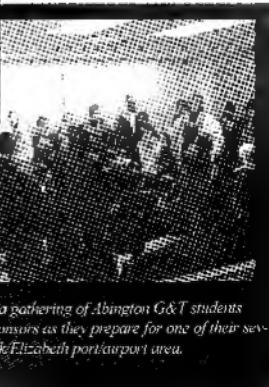
*Dr. Sandy Moore
Program Director*



The success and enjoyment of the program show clearly on the faces of Kavita and Miguel as they work on a project in NJIT's School of Architecture.



Above: Students and mentors at a table, looking at a glider design.



Professor Moore addresses a gathering of Abington G&T students and their college student sponsors as they prepare for one of their several field trips to the Newark/Elizabeth port/airport area.



Below: Francois, Alyson, and Kavita with their model just before "fly out."